

# Peabody-River King

STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA



**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Natural Resources**

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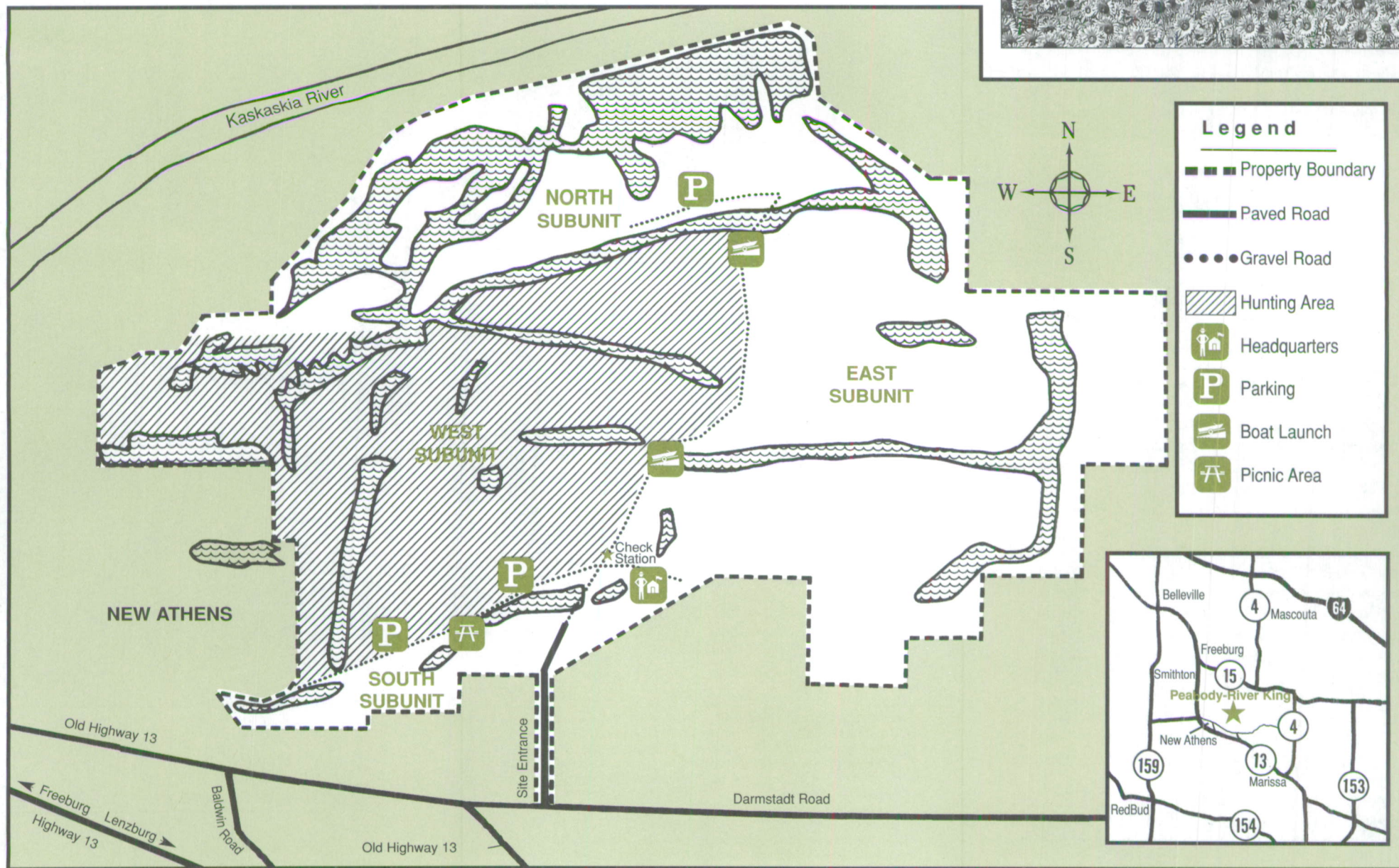
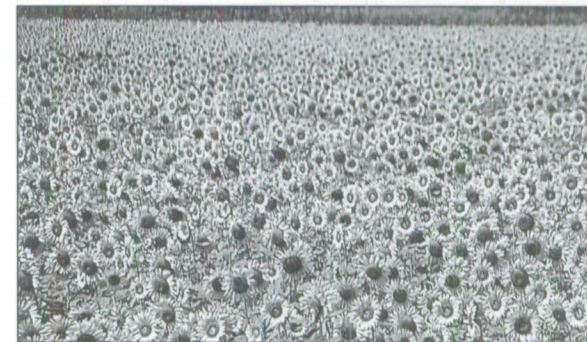


## Peabody-River King

Once a surface-mined area, Peabody-River King State Fish and Wildlife Area is used today by anglers, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts looking for recreational opportunities in southwestern Illinois. Located in southern St. Clair County about a half mile east of New Athens, Peabody-River King is adjacent to Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area, which oversees the site. Access is available east from New Athens via

Old Highway 13 and Darmstadt Road.

Some 1,800 acres of the 2,000-acre site were donated to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources by the Peabody Coal Co. in 1994. Peabody Coal had mined the area from the late 1950s through the late 1980s, operating its surface mines under a series of mine reclamation measures. As a result, the area contains a varied topography, including more than 20 lakes and ponds totaling 534 acres. All of the water impoundments are a





result of the surface mining operations.

Fescue is common throughout the site and was planted during the reclamation process to reduce soil erosion. Recently, some of the grasslands have been planted with prairie grasses and other native grasses to provide varied habitat for wildlife. In addition, each year approximately 200 acres are planted to sunflowers, corn, milo, wheat, alfalfa and soybeans.

## Fishing

With abundant largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish, Peabody-River King's many lakes and ponds provide excellent fishing opportunities to thousands of anglers annually. The location of the main boat ramp in the northern part of the area allows fishermen access to several of the site's larger lakes. Ponds provide good fishing opportunities in more secluded settings for anglers with small boats or canoes.

Boating and fishing regulations vary with the size of the water body being fished. Larger lakes more than 60 acres in size have a 10-horsepower limit and a "no-wake" rule. On smaller lakes, either trolling motors or bank fishing only is permitted. All fishing regulations are posted.

## Hunting

Perhaps the most popular hunting activity at Peabody-River King is dove hunting, which occurs in the East Subunit. Steel shot is required. Upland game, archery deer hunting and limited furbearer hunting are also allowed.

From Nov. 1 through Feb. 28, the North Subunit serves as a waterfowl rest area and is closed to all public activity, including fishing. The East Subunit is closed to hunting from Nov. 1 through Feb. 28, although trapping is allowed by permit. Hunter fact sheets, available from the site, provide specific information.

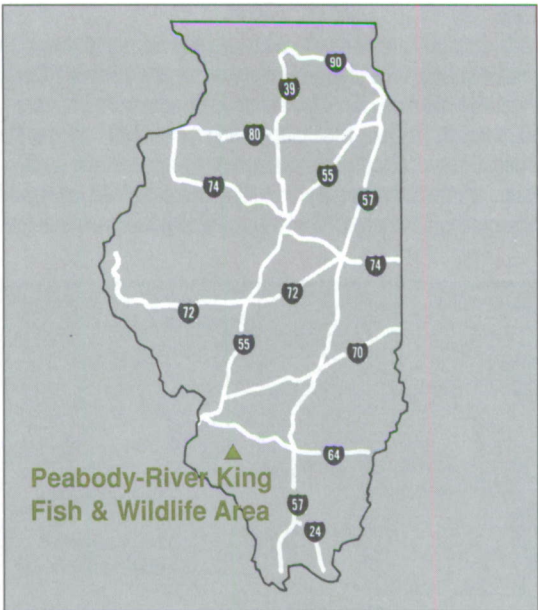
## Wildlife

Large numbers of migrating ducks and Canada geese visit Peabody-River King State Fish and Wildlife Area each fall, and occasionally swans are seen. A resident Canada goose population nests on the lakes' shores and islands. Other nesting waterfowl species include wood ducks, mallards and blue-winged teal. In addition, a roosting area for short-eared owls is maintained at the site.

## Facilities

Picnic tables and toilets are available. In addition to fishing and hunting, hiking is popular among those who enjoy viewing wildlife.

For more information about Peabody-River King State Fish and Wildlife Area, contact the site superintendent at Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area, 10981 Conservation Road, Baldwin, IL 62217, phone (618) 785-2555.



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- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Services, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, call (217) 782-6302 or visit our website at <http://dnr.state.il.us>.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs' Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at (217) 782-7498 for assistance.